



A publication of The Minerals, Metals & Materials Society

FAQs FOR JOM ADVISORS

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<http://www.tms.org/pubs/journals/JOM/jom.html>

Who is on the Advisory Committee?

The *JOM* Advisory Committee consists of one member from each technical committee of TMS. The committee does not meet as a group.

How are topics picked for each issue of JOM?

JOM uses the Technical Emphasis Calendar (Appendix I), which is assembled by the editorial staff in consultation with the *JOM* Advisory Committee.

How many topics are covered each year?

Between 24 and 36. Each TMS technical committee is entitled to present one topic in the journal each year. The only exception is the Aluminum Committee, which has the opportunity to present four topics.

What constitutes complete coverage of a topic?

Ideally, *JOM*'s coverage of a technical topic begins with a commentary by the advisor, who discusses the current issues of the subject. This is followed by a general overview that introduces *all* readers to the subject. Following this introduction are two to three much more in-depth technical articles that examine, in practical detail, state-of-the-art developments for practitioners in the field. (See Appendix II for details on editorial formats.) This model can vary, however, based on the unique circumstances of each topic.

Who decides when a topic is presented?

The editor, working in consultation with the advisory committee. Each issue of *JOM* features two to three technical topics under the umbrella of a single theme. The issue themes are selected by the editor.

Can two technical committees work jointly on a single topic?

Yes, topics are sponsored by either one technical committee or two working in tandem.

When is the topic selected?

The process begins at the Annual Meeting, when advisors receive an Advisor Kit for the following year. The proposed topic must be submitted to the *JOM* editorial office by April 15.

What is the advisor's role in this process?

To solicit and review papers that will provide complete coverage of a particular topic.

Can less technical articles be included?

Yes. Conference reviews, economics, and opinion articles, and education pieces are welcome article formats. Basically, the article must be interesting and have a strong materials component.

How much international representation does JOM seek in its content?

Because *JOM* is an international journal, one or more of the papers per topic should originate from outside the United States, if possible.

When does the advisor's work begin on a topic?

As soon as the topic is selected.

What do you do with unsolicited manuscripts?

They are forwarded to the advisor for review.

Can papers be printed in JOM if they have already been published elsewhere?

No. All papers considered for *JOM* must be new and unpublished.

Do you send deadline reminders?

Each month, the editor circulates an e-mail to all advisors recounting deadlines and listing papers currently planned for each topic.

Once the papers are solicited, is my job done?

No. The advisor must next review the solicited papers as well as any related manuscripts solicited or received by the editorial staff.

What does the review process consist of?

In considering a paper's merit, ask yourself the following questions: Is the subject matter of interest to *JOM* readers and is it current? Is the manuscript a rehashing of widely known information or is there something new and of interest? Is the manuscript complete and accurate with regard to the subject matter?

Suppose a paper is a worthy contribution to the topic, but I find flaws such as inconsistencies in formulas, text copy, tables, or figures?

Ask the author(s) to rework the paper appropriately; provide specific guidance as to necessary revisions.

What if a portion of the paper appears to be missing (e.g., summary or abstract, chemical compositions, reference materials) or I find too much detail in areas of no particular interest to JOM readers?

Again, ask the author to rework the paper. (For details on manuscript preparation, see Appendix III.)

How much writing am I expected to do?

Advisors are asked to write a one-page (approximately 800 word) commentary designed to introduce readers to the topical coverage.

Is it acceptable for an advisor to write a manuscript for inclusion under his/her topic?

Yes, but the advisor should seek a review of the paper from an unbiased colleague.

Can JOM print color figures?

Yes, but there is a surcharge to the authors for printing color figures. (See Appendix IV for artwork requirements.)

What is the “drop-dead” deadline?

All papers for the subject issue must be at the *JOM* editorial office no later than the first of the month, two months prior to the month of publication (e.g., January 1 for the March issue).

Can I e-mail the papers and figures?

Yes, but if the file is too large we may need you to place it on our FTP site.

Suppose I have an excellent video enhancement for my topic—is there an option for presenting it outside of the print format?

Yes, *JOM* offers an on-line-only publication called *JOM-e*, which can accommodate video and audio presentations, sample software, and animation. Length of *JOM-e* presentations is unlimited, although all other manuscript requirements still apply.

How many pages will be allocated to my topic?

Approximately 22.

Can I exceed the page limit?

Yes, but only if the advisor or an author can secure funding to subsidize the expanded number of pages. The cost is \$1,000 per eight pages added.

How many terms can an advisor serve?

As few as one or unlimited. It is at the discretion of the technical committee represented by the advisor.